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## THROUGH AFRICA EXPEDITION

Childs Frick Abyssinian Party Will Visit Same Region as Mr. Roosevelt.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—Lieut. Col. Edgar A. Mearns, U. S. A., retired, associate zoologist of the United States National Museum, who accompanied the Smithsonian expedition to Africa, under the direction of Theodore Roosevelt, will be attached as naturalist to the Childs Frick Abyssinian expedition, which shortly sails from London to make natural history collections in the Abyssinian region.

The party will consist of Childs Frick, son of Henry C. Frick; Mr. Blick, a close friend of the former, and Dr. Mearns. It is the plan of the organizer to make as complete a collection of the animals of the Abyssinian region as possible. The birds will be prepared by Dr. Mearns for the National Museum, where they will be studied and reported on; the other animals, including big game, will be prepared by Messrs. Frick and Blick, both of whom have taken preliminary lessons in taxidermy and field preparation in order to qualify themselves as field taxidermists.

The country to be traversed and explored by this party is one of the wildest parts of Africa, and it will be necessary for the explorers to have many native guides and soldiers to insure the progress of their expedition. Food is scarce in that region of Africa and the route laid out is beset by many other hardships.

The trip will be primarily through Abyssinia, but will extend into British East Africa as well, and cover a portion of that country north of the field gone over by Mr. Roosevelt in 1909-10. One of the most important regions to be visited is in the neighborhood of Lake Rudolf and along the shores of the lake itself.

This region has been but little explored and in fact was only discovered in the year 1888 by Count Teleki. It consists of as wild a country as could be desired by the most intrepid explorers. The Hamatic people, a branch of the great red family, dwell there. They are intelligent but uncivilized. Several different tribes probably will be encountered—the Somali, Gallas, and Hamar. One of the most recent expeditions into this country was that of A. Donaldson Smith, who made an excellent collection of the fauna for the British Museum in 1897.

Since it is practically necessary to pave one's way through this country by gifts, and more can be accomplished by barter than by actual cash transactions, a good sized pack train will be required to transport the personal effects, outfits and articles for trade with the natives. It has been remarked by an early explorer of this region that cheap American cotton cloth, wire, mirrors, trinkets and the like, are of inestimable value, and that an empty sauce bottle goes farther in a bargain than ten good American dollars in gold, such objects as a medium sized bottle being particularly desirable by the natives as ornaments for their ears.

The expedition will begin actual work about Dec. 1, and it is expected that its operations will cover a period of approximately seven months. There is no question that with even moderate success, the national collections will be enriched by valuable specimens.

Dr. Mearns recently sailed from New York on the Mauritania for London. From there the party will go to Aden, Arabia, on the Gulf of Aden, where they will outfit. They will then cross the Gulf of Aden and plunge directly into the wilderness.

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